

# ◆ PIER TALK ◆

837th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion (Terminal)

4th Qtr, FY 2003

## Commander's Corner

**LTC James E. Brundage**  
Battalion Commander

As usual, the Summer months have been busy for the Kargo Kings. While welcoming in a new executive officer and sergeant major, we undertook several operations and the annual participation in the Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) exercise. UFL activities included both supporting units deploying to the peninsula for the exercise and participating in the exercise itself, giving us both operations training and the opportunity to see how we, MTMC, support the deployment of forces to Korea in support of potential contingencies.

Other exciting events included the change of command of the 599th Trans Group and a visit from the MTMC CG. COL Harvey, a former 837th Commander, took command of the Group and immediately took the opportunity to visit his old unit and also participate in UFL. His visit was immediately followed by MG Dunwoody's visit. MG Dunwoody spent some great time with unit members, offering us an opportunity to get a top-down view of the MTMC Transformation initiatives, and also traveled to Daegu to brief the 19th TSC CG and observe their battle rhythm.

The Quarter ended with our Organization Day as we closed out the fiscal year with an event that brought everyone together and allowed us to celebrate another accident-free year and one of great accomplishments.

***“Prepare your units to go to war. No other mission or requirement precedes this.”***

GEN Edward C. Meyer, CSA



*MG Dunwoody with COL Lee, Kye-sung and LTC Brundage at Pier 8 during her visit to the 837th Transportation Battalion in August.*

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*837th U.S.  
Army  
Transportation  
Battalion  
(Terminal)*

*“USFK’s  
Power  
Projection  
Platform.”*

**837th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion  
Unit #15179  
APO AP 96259-0268**

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LTC James E. Brundage

**Executive Officer**  
MAJ James M. Nixon

**Sergeant Major**  
SGM Jeffrey E. Skinner

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**Plans Officer (S2):**  
Mr. Fred A. Vandersys

**Battalion Operations Officer (S3):**  
MAJ Courtney R. Brooks

**Chief, Cargo Distribution (CD):**  
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# SGM Corner

SGM Jeffrey E. Skinner  
Battalion Sergeant Major



Greetings to all. I'm very pleased to assume my watch as the Battalion Sergeant Major of the *Kargo Kings*. My priorities are to sustain the MOS capabilities of every enlisted soldier in the Battalion, sustain our training proficiency and sustain the professionalism of the NCO corps.

I'll execute my tour of duty in Korea without my family. My wife Pamela, daughters Jessica and Jasmine remain in Newport News, Virginia.

Assignment highlights of my 23 year career include: my enlistment in the Army in July 1979 and subsequent training which made me a soldier and vehicle driver; my 1<sup>st</sup> Squad Leader assignment in February 1987 when I initially became responsible for the welfare of soldiers; my 2 year stint as Drill Sergeant, October 1990 to October 1992 where I seized the opportunity to shape young men and women into soldiers; my Platoon Sergeant assignments, December 1992 to January 1994 where I ensured the soldiers under my watch were trained to execute their missions and survive on the battlefield; my stint as First Sergeant where I trained Squad Leaders and Platoon Sergeants to take care of soldiers.

## DST On PeniNsula/Off PenInsula Exercise Support

MAJ Courtney Brooks, Bn S3/Operations Officer

21 Jul - 9 Aug	Chinhae Ammunition Retrograde via the MV SP5 Gibson; 765 containers loaded, DST OIC, SFC King
3 - 5 Aug	Pohang III MEF UFL 03 Deployment DST Exercise Support via the MV Green Lake; 346 pieces of equipment discharged, DST OIC, CPT Brooks
18 Aug - 21 Sep	Chinhae Ammunition Retrograde via the MV CEC Mayflower; 2710 break bulk bundles loaded, DST OIC, SFC Sprague
22 Aug - 2 Sep	CROC 03 Deployment Augmentation Support to the 599 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Group DST; 800 pieces of equipment discharged, DST members, SSG Reeves and SSG Jones
1 - 3 Sep	Pohang III MEF UFL 03 Redeployment DST Exercise Support via the MV Green Lake; 346 pieces of equipment loaded, DST OIC, CPT Brooks
9 - 10 Sep	Central ID Lab Hawaii (CILHI) Support via the Trade Fortune to sustain operations in North Korea
19 Sep	MV Green Point RORO Operations at Pier 8; 111 pieces of equipment discharged; 35 pieces of equipment loaded
18 - 25 Sep	THAIFORCE Deployment Augmentation Support to the 599 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Group DST; 175 pieces of equipment discharged, DST member, SFC Sprague



*Vessel: MV CEC Mayflower at Chinhae.*

*The Kargo Kings and the ROK-A POG loading break bulk ammunition bundles.*



*Humanitarian Aid staged in Thailand prior to surface deployment to Iraq.*



*DST deployed to Thailand discusses load plans with Thailand Engineer Company while SFC Sprague checks a loaded container.*



The 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion provided support to many diverse exercises and operations this quarter. We deployed soldiers and civilians to execute seaport operations to sustain the force build up in support of OEF and OIF. In support of the Cdr, US Forces Korea, we deployed soldiers and civilians to support ammunition retrograde operations and deployments/redeployments during the UFL exercise.

Ammunition operations conducted at Chinhae Ammunition Pier, allowed excellent opportunities to strengthen our relationship with the ROK Army Port Operations Group (ROK POG). We executed ammunition retrograde operations in break-bulk

and containerized configurations. These critical operations required close coordination and communication with our ROK partners.

The UFL exercise begins with the surface deployment of III MEF from Japan to Korea. The vessel used for deployment and redeployment of III MEF was the MV Green Lake. The equipment needed to be off-loaded from the vessel as quickly and as safely as possible to maintain her commercial shipping schedule. Through close coordination and expert planning, the *Kargo Kings* discharged a total of 380 pieces of cargo, consisting of wheels, containerized and general cargo in less than six hours, two hours ahead of schedule. Redeployment support was equally challenging and equally efficient.

## *Use of Commercial Container Vessel Service*

Mr. Major J. Blake - Chief, CD

The 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion's responsibility for providing support for ocean transportation and services encompasses all port facilities in the Republic of Korea. While most visitors to the battalion see only Pier 8 in Busan and some envision all military shipments coming through Pier 8, that is not the case. Over 95 percent of all DoD shipments transit the commercial piers and are processed for customs clearance and onward movement by the battalion without ever seeing or touching the cargo.

Past procedures shipped the vast majority of oversized vehicles or equipment onboard RORO vessels normally arriving at Pier 8 in Korea once a month. Major changes have occurred to improve delivery times of equipment to the Warfighter. In order to expedite shipments to the theater the Universal Service Contract established rates for shipment of oversized cargo and vehicles on board scheduled container vessels using flat rack containers or booking the cargo as break bulk. Current procedures allow booking the equipment on the scheduled container vessels arriving several times per week at the Busan commercial piers reducing

the port hold time at the SPOD/E. Additionally it eliminates the stevedoring cost at Pier 8 due to the built in cost of port handling by the commercial carrier at the commercial pier. Shipments arriving at the commercial piers are loaded by the commercial carriers to commercial truck or rail assets scheduled by our import section and arranged by the movement control battalion (MCB) for movement to inland destinations.

During this quarter the Cargo Distribution section processed HETs, 60K Loaders, Bridge Launch Vehicles, Ribbon Bridges, Laundry Units, and numerous other vehicle shipments arriving onboard commercial container ships. These shipments arrived at commercial piers operated by several ocean carriers in Busan and Masan.

The increased use of liner service for oversized cargo and vehicle movements is another step in improving the service to our customers. The *Kargo Kings* are always ready to support the Warfighter at all port facilities in the Republic of Korea.



*Air Force 60K loader at Pusan East Container Terminal.*



*Ms. Kim, Hye-kyong, Import Section of CD, coordinates onward movement requirement for all shipments arriving on commercial vessels.*



*HET Tractor at Pusan East Container Terminal.*



*Bridge equipment at Masan Port.*



*Bridge launcher at Masan Port.*

## Information Management and DST Sustainment

Mr. Johnny McCorvey - Acting Chief, IMO

IMO personnel are key players in the accomplishment of almost every mission in the unit, making valuable contributions to the organization by ensuring the communications fidelity of many briefings, video teleconferences, telephones, electronic mail - virtually every type of communications in and around the Battalion. The staff in IMO like the expression, "we're the grease responsible for the Battalion's wheels rolling smoothly".

To execute our armistice or contingency mission of employing deployment support teams (DSTs) to conduct sustained seaport operations support, the DST must be proficient in all aspects of C4I. The primary mission of the IMO is to ensure this C4I proficiency exists by establishing the communications capability required to support the operations. We deploy several types of communication systems such as the International Maritime Satellite, otherwise known as INMARSAT, which provides our data connectivity for the Worldwide Port System (WPS). We also deploy IRIDIUM phones and government cell phones for additional voice connectivity.

Frequent peninsula and worldwide operations support allows MTMC to continue to emphasize exercising our communications capabilities at seaports where there is little or no U.S. presence, and where supporting infrastructure such as facilities, power, and telecommunications do not provide the ideal operational requirements. IMO personnel must ensure all data equipment inside the Deployable Port Operations Center (DPOC) is serviceable, operational and sufficient to communicate in an austere environment and are responsible for operational readiness, and configuration of INMARSATs, laptop workstations, printers, docking stations, scanners and computer peripherals for TCD and Ops personnel. Although it's not widely realized, IMO personnel deploy with DSTs and also remain on site to troubleshoot any mishaps which might occur with any of the battalion systems.

You can be sure someone from IMO, somewhere down the line has done their homework to ensure the success of the communications equipment in support of the DST.



*Critical IMO support equipment is allocated operating space in the DPOC.*

*Mr. Pak, Chae-yul, Mr. Pak, Mun-sang, Mr. Yi, Chung-won and Mr. McCorvey ensure DST connectivity with PCIs.*

## Admin Tips for TDY Travel

Mr. Eddy D. McLendon - Chief, Admin

During this quarter more than 40 temporary duty orders were issued for Battalion personnel. The majority of this travel was in support of Deployment Support Teams (DST). The TDY traveler must understand and comply with certain rules and policies while performing official travel.

Use of your Government Travel Card while on TDY. Use the travel card only for expenses connected with your official government travel. You may obtain cash advances at ATMs and charge routine travel expenses, for example lodging, rental car & meals. Some other travel card rules to remember are:

- Pay your card bill by the due date on your monthly statement
- Notify Bank of America (BOA) and the 599<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group APC immediately if you lose your card
- Notify the BOA and the 599<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group APC immediately if you have a disputed charge
- Retain your receipts



Mr. McLendon & Ms. Im checking a TFMS input for a TDY order.

File your travel voucher promptly. Upon completion of your TDY, file your travel claim promptly. Within the 837th Transportation Battalion, you must submit your voucher to the Admin Section within two days after returning from TDY travel. The 176th Finance Battalion in Yongsan Post, processes all travel vouchers for Korea, and they now do split-disbursements and electronic funds transfer. Split-disbursements are now mandatory for all our assigned military and DAC personnel. Turn in your completed travel voucher with all receipts for services costing more than \$75.00, the traveler's copy of your airline ticket (if used), and one copy of your travel order. You can expect your travel settlement within 5-7 days after it is turned in to finance for processing. The Admin Section also requires a copy of your settlement voucher. If you do not receive a copy of your settlement voucher through normal distribution, it can be obtained from the MyPay website at <http://www.dfas.mil/myPay/>.



SGT Kim QCing a travel voucher before it is submitted to Finance.



## Kargo Kings Family Readiness Group

POC: Ms. Caroline Brundage

I would like to thank everyone for your involvement in the family readiness group (FRG). I cannot overstate the important role that FRG activities have in enriching our support to all members of the *Kargo Kings* team and enhancing our experiences in Korea. Although everyone assigned to the unit was very busy deploying to support 6 operations during this quarter, our family readiness group took advantage of several planned events to strengthen our bonds in the spirit of fellowship of the organization.

Many of you participated in and/or provided excellent support to the following events/activities: 1) SGM Hammond's promotion to CSM; 2) unit luncheons, promotion/recognition ceremonies and social trips; 3) the social during MG Ann Dunwoody's visit; 2) the unit Organization Day; 4) the unit food booth which supported the Carl Vinson Battle Group's port call. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

This quarter we welcomed:  
- CPT Sabrina James-Henry



*837th Transportation Battalion kids playing games at unit Organization Day.*

- SGM Jeffrey Skinner
- MAJ James M. Nixon
- SSG Patrick Bartell

This quarter we bid farewell to SSG Tracy Robinson as she PCS'd to the 841st Transportation Battalion in Charleston, South Carolina.

My thanks to everyone for all your input and support to the FRG. Please continue your outstanding support.



*Farewell luncheon for SGM Hammond at the Outback Steak House.*



*Group photo at the Bo-moon tour complex in Kyong-ju.*

# Antiterrorism/Force Protection

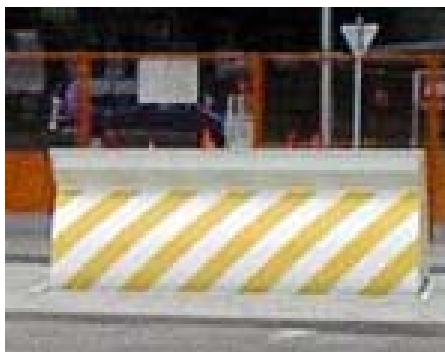
Mr. Fred Vandersys - Unit Antiterrorism Officer

Many of the 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion's objectives in Force Protection upgrades and training were accomplished for FY03. Pier 8 and Camp Hialeah are commonly recognized as the central command and control installations for US forces within the Pusan enclave and both locations were subjected to numerous and routine demonstrations by local dissident/civic groups this quarter. Increased vigilance was implemented within the command and all personnel were required to complete the Level I Antiterrorism / Force Protection (AT/FP) course which was provided over the Internet. The 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion Korean employees, Department of Army Civilians, and military completed the AT/FP course within the require time frame.

Mr. Vandersys, the Unit Antiterrorism Officer (ATO) and Mr. Rice, Acting Chief, Terminal Operations attended the Unit Level II Antiterrorism Advisor Course conducted at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri . Mr. Vandersys also attended the Seaport Security Officer Training Program course sponsored by the Military Traffic Management Command at South Port, North Carolina.

The unit's Force Protection program recently received funding for purchasing and installing a wedge-rotating barrier, hydraulic drop arm crash beam and a duress alarm system for FY04. Plans for design and installation have been submitted through the local DPW. Other security upgrades this quarter included the replacement of the old lights on the pier with improved flood lighting through out the entire Pier 8 perimeter.

Security techniques and procedures continue to evolve. The installation security job requirement has changed from requiring only unskilled watchman and security guards to requiring varied, and at times, very skilled professionals. Technology has also brought a great deal of efficiency in the form of closed circuit television, electronic access control, intrusion detection and other integrated systems. Weapons of mass destruction and cyberterrorism threats to the peninsula's critical infrastructure validates the requirement for continued technological evolutions. Understanding who they are, what they believe in, and what they are capable of will allow us to better prepare and plan AT/FP procedures.



*High security rotating wedge barriers are scheduled to be installed FY 04*



*New entrance flood lights were installed at Pier 8.*

# VIP Visits, Unit Visits & Ship Visits

MAJ James M. Nixon - Executive Officer

19 - 22 Jul	USS Lake Erie port call
23 Jul	COL Joyner, Cdr, 20 <sup>th</sup> ASG and new staff
7 Aug	COL Stephenson, US TRANSCOM LNO to USFK J3
6 Aug	Mr Roger Weston, Velocity Management review to reduce CWT
13 Aug	Department of Homeland Security - Container Security Initiative Office Opening Ceremony
11 Aug	COL Toomey, Cdr Material Support Center, Korea (MSC-K)
14 - 18 Aug	USS Chancellorsville port call
11 - 19 Aug	COL Harvey, Cdr 599 <sup>th</sup> Transportation Group ICW UFL 03
18 - 22 Aug	CSM Morgan, Command Sergeant Major, MTMC
19 - 23 Aug	MG Dunwoody, Cdr, MTMC
18 Aug	Ms Cathy Abell, US Congressional Liaison for USFK
24 Aug	COL Munsion, Cdr, 8 <sup>th</sup> PERSCOM, new staff and Wartrace Bn Cdr's
26 Aug	COL(P) Barr, 19 <sup>th</sup> TSC Contingency DCG
25 Aug	USS Blue Ridge, 7 <sup>th</sup> Fleet Cmd Vessel port call

The fourth quarter of the fiscal year is always an excellent training opportunity in the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). During this quarter, the 599<sup>th</sup> Transportation Group deployed to the KTO and employed the Combined Seaport Coordination Center (CSCC) and the 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion received contingency mobilization augmentees during the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise.

The *Kargo Kings* were challenged by Executive Officer and Sergeants Major transitions while host-



During the Carl Vinson visit, 837th Transportation Battalion allows local vendors to support sailors enjoying liberty at Pier 8. They specialize in leather goods, shoes, embroidery, and the much desired mink blankets at discount rates.



COL Harvey addressing Kargo Kings during his visit.

ing many visits from warfighters, subordinate commanders and members of their staffs also in transition. With each visit, we provided our armistice single port management overview, our contingency operations overview and the capabilities of SPOD/Es in Busan and throughout the KTO.

During this quarter, we had the privilege of using Pier 8 as a platform for R&R port calls for US Navy ships supporting OEF and OIF. During each ship visit the vessel conducted a 4-5 day port call and the sailors enjoyed shore leave in the Busan area.

During each visit the *Kargo Kings* allowed AAFES vendor sales, phone banks, money exchanges, food/refreshment sales on Pier 8 for the sailors convenience. We also coordinated with each ship, ROK protection agencies and the local installation Military Police to ensure that security and vigilance was emphasized during each ship's port call.

## KATUSA PERSPECTIVE

**By SGT Yi, Jong-keun**

Senior KATUSA

This quarter was the busiest quarter in the year for KATUSAs of the 837<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion because we had to support the Ulchi Focus Lens (UFL) exercise which was performed in the Combined Seaport Coordination Center (CSCC), 18 to 31 August. Our support to UFL was successful and great as we provided 4 GCCS-K operators. Prior to UFL, we attended the GCCS-K class and learned how to handle the C2PC program professionally. During UFL, we confirmed the CSCC present status quickly and correctly and input the information to C2PC so that whole force could hold it in common and use it for a strategic need as if we were in a hypothetical war.

The unit Organization Day, Un Cemetery clean-up and the unit NBC training are among other training and events where KATUSAs made significant contributions. We conducted the gas chambers in Camp Carroll. Our NBC soldiers, CPL Jo and PFC Sohn were the primary trainers and



*SGT Song, Jung-kyu assists fellow Kargo King with secure straps and seals prior to entering the NBC chamber.*

did great job. Our NBC KATUSAs have got NBC school in Yongsan for 2 weeks. There, they learned about all the NBC related tasks from NBC professionals and got their NBC certification. These KATUSAs can help our unit soldiers and civilians if a nuclear, biological situation happens.

All of the KATUSAs will keep working hard and supporting our unit.



*KATUSA soldiers of the 837th Transportation Battalion joining volunteer work at the Pusan UN Cemetery.*

### Promotions



*PFC Park, Jin-man is promoted to CPL and congratulated by LTC Brundage.*

### Awards Presentations



*All the awardees during the quarter receive congratulations from the Kargo Kings.*

### 599th NCO of the Year Board 3 July 2003



*Kargo Kings sponsoring the 599th Transportation Group NCO of the year board at the terminal.*

### CSM Reappointment Ceremony 8 August 2003



*SGM Hammond receiving a certificate of reappointment to CSM from LTC Brundage.*

### Typhoon Maemi 12 September 2003



*13 Gantry Cranes collapsed during Typhoon Maemi in the Port of Pusan.*

### NBC Chamber 13 September 2003



*SSG Reeves issues tasks, conditions and standards prior to NBC training at Camp Carroll.*

### Container Security Initiative 13 August 2003



*Opening ceremony of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Container Security Initiative at Pier 8.*

### Organization Day 26 September 2003



*Enjoying the day with a foot volleyball game.*



*SGM Skinner, MAJ Nixon and LTC Brundage celebrate the 837th Transportation Battalion's Organization Day.*

# Marks of Excellence

## **AAM**

SFC Gerald M. Sprague, OPS NCO, Terminal OPS

## **599th Trans Gp's Performer of the Year 2003**

Mr. Fred Vandersys, Trans Planner, Terminal OPS

## **837th Trans Bn's Senior System Employee of the 4th Qtr, FY 03**

Mr. Yi, Man-ho, Budget Analyst, CMD & SPT

## **837th Trans Bn's Base System Employee of the 4thQtr, FY 03**

Ms. Chu, Kyong-ae, Mgmt Spt Asst, CMD & SPT

## **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal**

SFC Gerald M. Sprague, OPS NCO, Terminal OPS

## **Certificate of Appreciation from Installation Mgmt Agency Korea Region Office**

SSG Clayton E. Reeves, Training NCO, Terminal OPS

## **Certificate of Appreciation from Military Traffic Management Command Europe**

SSG Clayton E. Reeves, Training NCO, Terminal OPS

## **Certificate of Apprecation**

Mr. Cho, Song-myong, Bus Driver, Terminal OPS

Mr. Chon, U-kil, Trans Asst, Terminal OPS

Mr. Kim, Chong-pu, Trans Mob Eq Mech, Terminal OPS

## **Sustained Superior Performance Award**

Mr. Yun, Chang-hwan, Tml Ops Specialist, Terminal OPS

Mr. Pak, Kil-yong, Marine Cargo Spec, Terminal OPS

Mr. Kim, Chang-kon, Marine Cargo Spec, Terminal OPS

Dr. Son, Hui-chol, Supv Trf Mgt Sp, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Ms. Kim, Hye-kyong, Trans Spec, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Ms. Han, Tu-hui, Trans Spec, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Ms. Sok, Kyong-suk, Trans Asst, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Mr. Yi, Tae-kyu, Quality Assurance Spec, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Ms. Pae, Mi-Yong, Voucher Examiner, Traffic & Cargo Mgmt

Mr. Yi, Chong-won, Computer Spec, CMD & SPT

Mr. Pak, Chae-yul, Computer Spec, CMD & SPT

Mr. Pak, Mun-sang, Budget Analyst, CMD & SPT

Mr. Yi, Man-ho, Budget Analyst, CMD & SPT

Ms. Chu, Kyong-ae, Mgmt Spt Asst, CMD & SPT

Ms. Im, Chi-yon, Admin Spec, CMD & SPT

***"Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."***

***- Albert Einstein -***